Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04467 312047Z ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, EAL, CA
SUBJECT: LABOR REACTION TO GOC DISCUSSION PAPER ON
DECONTROLS

REF: OTTAWA 4452

1. ALTHOUGH CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC) HAS NOT YET TAKEN FORMAL POSITION ON GOC'S DISCUSSION PAPER ON DECONTROLS INITIAL REACTIONS WERE,NOT SURPRISINGLY,NEGATIVE. CLC DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATION AND RESEARCH RONALD LANG TOLD LABATT THAT PROPOSED MULTIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF 30 TO 50 MEMBERS IS TOO UNWIELDY WITH TOO BROAD A REPRESENTATION FROM GROUPS OTHER THAN BUSINESS, LABOR AND GOVERNMENT AND IT LACKS DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. LABOR IS ALSO OPPOSED TO MONITORING AGENCY ALTHOUGH ITS LACK OF ENFORCEMENT POWERS MAY MAKE IT TOLERABLE. IF AGENCY CONCEPT EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED, CLC WILL INSIST THAT IT HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO LEVY REQUESTS FOR WAGE AND PRICE DATA AND THAT CLC WILL NOMINATE AND HAVE RIGHT TO RECALL LABOR MEMBERS ON AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE BODY. REFERENCES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSION PAPER THAT PRICE INCREASES WILL PROBABLY RISE AT FASTER PACE THIS YEAR THAN WAGES LEADS CLC TO CONCLUSION THAT MONITORING AGENCY INTENDED PRIMARILY TO CURB WAGE INCREASES BUT NOT PRICES AND PROFITS.

2. GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND LABOR SUBCOMMITTEES ON DECONTROL AND POST-CONTROL (SEE OTTAWA 3006) WILL MEET

SHORTLY TO DISCUSS THE GOC PAPER IN PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER MEETING ABOUT MID-JUNE OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH TOP LEADERS OF CLC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AT THIS JUNCTURE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOME HARD BARGAINING LIES AHEAD BEFORE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED THAT WOULD PERMIT GOC TO ANNOUNCE DATE FOR ENDING CONTROLS WHICH FINMIN MACDONALD HOPED TO DO BY END OF JULY. ENDERS

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